A

SHORT COMPARATIVE

VIEW

OF THE

Practice of Surgery

IN THE

FRENCH HOSPITALS:

WITH

Some REMARKS on the Study of ANATOMY and MIDWIFRY.

THE WHOLE

Endeavouring to prove, That the ADVANTAGES to STUDENTS, in theſe Profeſſions, are greater at *LONDON*, than at *PARIS*.

INTERSPERS'D,

With Critical Obſervations on the Nature and Uſe of OIL of TURPENTINE, the BOUGIE, &c.

LONDON:

Printed for JACOB ROBINSON, at the *Golden-Lion*, in *Ludgate-Street*, MDCCL.

[Price One Shilling.]

WELLCOME
LIBRARY
INSTITUTE

TO THE READER.

THE following Diſcourſe is the Subſtance of ſeveral Letters, written at different Times (indeed only for my own Peruſal and Improvement) from a particular Friend, then reſiding at Paris: *And however ungrateful I may in this Publication appear, as I thought they contain'd ſome Remarks which might be uſeful to Many, I could not refrain giving them the Publick, after reducing their Bulk, and in ſome meaſure, digeſting the Thoughts, which not being*

deſign'd for Public Peruſal, were conſequently ſomewhat uncouth: And if in this Attempt, I have not expreſs'd every Hint with that Accuracy of Stile the Author would perhaps have done (as on conſulting him, I ſhould certainly have been fruſtrated in my Deſign) the Reader muſt excuſe any Errors, which from the Nature of the Thing could not be avoided.

And here I muſt (if I may uſe the Expreſſion) make a bold Puſh *to beg my Correſpondent's Pardon, in Publiſhing (without his Leave) the Papers He deſign'd Only for my own Reading.*

A SHORT
Comparative VIEW
Of the PRACTICE of
SURGERY, &c.

IN the HOTEL-DIEU, the Wards are very lofty, and proportionable in Length and Breadth, but are ſo crouded with Beds, that I can't give the exact Dimenſions: The Patients are here, generally, in Number about Four-thouſand, more or leſs; they are well nouriſhed, and kept tolerably clean; grown People lie from one to four in a Bed, Children from one to ten.

The *Surgeons* dreſs their Patients twice a Day, *viz.* at Five o' Clock in the Morning, and at Three in the Afternoon. Students have Liberty to viſit any Part of this Hoſpital but the Lying-in Ward; they formerly had Liberty to ſee this Practice, but, on repeated Irregularities, this great Privilege was prohibited by an abſolute Order from the *King*.

Le Charitee is the completeſt *Hoſpital* I ever ſaw, having no more Smell than a private Houſe; it contains about a hundred and fifty Patients, all Men, who are taken care of by Prieſts, a Prieſt being Apothecary, and ſo on, to the meaneſt Servitude. The Floors are of Brick, round in the Middle, and flat on each Side. It is divided into five Wards, all on the ſame Floor, and each decorated with ſeveral admirable Paintings; the Wards are very lofty,

lofty, the largeſt is about ſixty Yards in length, and twelve in Breadth.

The Patients (here) are dreſs'd at Seven o' Clock in the Morning, and Three in the Afternoon; the Number of Surgeons Patients is only thirty-two, the others being all Phyſical Caſes; theſe are viſited every Morning.

It may not be amiſs, before I enter on Surgery, to write a few Words on their Practice of Phyſick, which conſiſts in little more than repeated Bleedings, Clyſters, and Ptiſan; be the Caſe what it will, they never vary their Preſcriptions, but repeat the ſame *iterum atque iterum*, till Death interferes, *vel Natura evincit Morbum.* They have great Dependance on their Ptiſan; which induces me to give you the Compoſition.

℞ Hordei confrict. et loti ʒij.
Rad. Graminis purgatæ et obtritæ ʒj.
Coque in aq. commun. q. ſ. ad ℔viij.
Sub finem Coctionem ad.
Rad. Glyz. contuſæ, ʒſs. Qua injecta, ſtatim vas remove ab Igne—Cola pro Uſu.

Some great Authors have ſaid, *The more ſimple the Practice of Phyſick, the better*: If ſo, certainly the *French* Phyſicians have done their Parts in reducing its Copiouſneſs; for, in the moſt languid Caſes, they ſeldom uſe any Cordial Medicines, but ſtick (as Quacks to a Noſtrum) to thoſe abovemention'd.

I proceed now, to give you a conciſe Account of the Practice of Surgery in both Hoſpitals, with as much Accuracy as my Time will permit.

It is generally ſaid in *England*, among the Common People, and ſome-

ſometimes among the Learned, That a Man cannot be a good *Surgeon* and *Acoucheur*, without a Tour to *Paris*: This Opinion was, ſome Years ſince, univerſal, and probably would have ſtill continued, had it not been for the known Improvements of Mr. CHESELDEN, and his Cotemporary Mr. FERN; whoſe Merits and Abilities have been equalled by Mr. SHARP and others. Yet, notwithſtanding the Sanction of an Education at St THOMAS's or GUY's, the Generality in *England* have a better Opinion of the Abilities of a *Surgeon* educated Abroad. Several Inſtances of this Kind I have obſerv'd; nay, I have known ſome People that have abſented themſelves from their native Place about three Months; during which Time, it has been whiſper'd about Town, they were gone to *Paris* for Improvement. They have return'd at

the

the appointed Time, accouter'd *à la mode de Paris*; talk of the *Practices*, *Customs*, and large *&c's*, which they never see; and thus pass in the Neighbourhood as accomplish'd *Surgeons* and *Acoucheurs*, or what not?

Now I am of Opinion, that this Tour, far from being of Service, is quite the reverse, unless a Person is well acquainted with the *Surgery* in *England*, and has Judgment enough to distinguish the good from the bad Practice, and Sense enough to use the one and not the other; to such a Person the Journey may be well enough; but, How many ignorant and unexperienced Fellows think themselves good *Surgeons*, when they have been at *Paris!* In fine, Surgery is but little understood even amongst its Practitioners (I mean, those) that have been educated Abroad, yet almost every Person thinks

thinks the *French* the beſt Surgeons in the World. As, for Proof:

A certain *Surgeon* of Repute in *London* came and reſided here about ſix Weeks laſt Summer, during which Time he went thro' a Courſe of Operations with Mr. *Lewis**, and a Courſe of Bandages with Mr. *Farien*'s † *Boy*; and receiv'd ſuch Improvements, that, on his Return to *London*, he gave a publick Courſe of Lectures of Diſeaſes, Operations, and Bandages ‡. What firſt gave the *Engliſh* ſo high an Opinion of the *French Surgeons*, I can't take upon me to determine;

* Mr. *Lewis* is as known a Coxcomb as any in *Paris*, and his Courſe of Operations eſteem'd one of the worſt, being unacquainted with Practice, and having Scarcity of Subjects.

† A *Boy*, which Mr. *Farien* keeps to diſſect for him in his Lectures; who now and then picks up a few Louis-d'Ors, by pretending to teach others.

‡ For Particulars of this Courſe, ſee the Publick Papers of *September*, 1749.

it might formerly arise from the Advantages of publick Practice (as Hospitals were not then so numerous in *England*, as they now are.) But this Reason at present bears no Validity; for whoever attends the Hospitals of *London* and *Paris*, will learn, at the First, the Practice and Operations of Surgery, and at the Latter, nothing but Cruelty, Slovenliness, and Inhumanity! But of this hereafter.

The Reasons generally given for the superior Advantages to Students in Surgery at *Paris*, are, That they have Liberty to attend the Hospitals *gratis*, and have a greater Plenty of Subjects for Dissection. These Advantages, 'tis certain, they enjoy; but the Expence of Travelling, *&c.* scarce makes the first Advantage any at all; and the Expence of the other is not so trivial as People imagine. I dissected ne'er a

Body

Body in *Paris*, but what lay me in two Guineas. I believe, Bodies (for Diſſection and Improvement) are no where made ſo bad Uſe of (perhaps, occaſion'd by the Eaſe with which they are obtain'd.) I remember to have ſeen four diſſecting in a Theatre at one Time, ſoon after my Arrival: And had there, the good Fortune to ſee every Part, almoſt, diſſected to View; but was much ſurpris'd to ſee the *Faſcia* left on moſt of the Muſcles, and, in ſome Places, great Portions of the *Membrana Adipoſa*; the Muſcles tore one from the other, I wiſh I could ſay, ſeparated; this, indeed, might not ariſe from Want of Judgment, but good Knives, there being no good Diſſecting-knives in *Paris*, conſequently, no good Diſſecting; their principal Inſtrument is the Biſtree.

I can't here, omit mentioning the Behaviour of theſe People, who are ſaid, in *England*, to be the moſt courteous and complaiſant of any in *Europe*: As I was chiefly converſant with the Surgeons, I ſhall confine myſelf moſtly to their Manners. The firſt Day I enter'd one of their Hoſpitals, a Fiſtula *in Ano* was to be dilated; a Friend, whoſe Buſineſs led him to get as nigh the Bed, where the Operation was to be perform'd as poſſible, accompliſh'd his Deſire pretty eaſily; but juſt before the Operation, one of the young Barbers collar'd him, and pull'd him by his ſuperior Strength into the Middle of the Ward; this he was oblig'd to bear, *æquo animo*; and afterwards to be the Occaſion of a general Laughter. This Affront I ſhould never have mention'd, as a Proof of their Ill-manners, had he been the only Perſon who met with

with ſuch Uſage. Many of our Countrymen, who were here at the ſame Time for Improvement, met with Affronts much more deſerving of Reſentment. Their Behaviour to young Students, eſpecially *Engliſh*, is in general brutiſh. The Appearance of theſe Gentlemen, is as mean and deſpicable as can be conceiv'd; the meaneſt Journeyman Barber I ever ſaw in *London*, is equal to them in Dreſs and Complaiſance: I don't now wonder, that Surgeons here are not reſpected as Gentlemen, for really there is ſcarce the Appearance of one in the whole Crew. The Pupils (or rather young Barbers) look, when together (ſetting aſide the powder'd Coat) like a Company of new Recruits without their Regimentals. I have hitherto ſpoke of the Garçons only, but ſhall now ſpeak in particular of ſome of the Hoſpital Surgeons. I

have heard ſome of theſe uſe the moſt ill-natur'd Expreſſions they could invent, to a Patient, for crying out while they were mangling him with a Knife, which to Appearance was as dull as an *Engliſh Coulter*. They are likewiſe very liberal with their Blows; which, to a humane and charitable Man, is really ſhocking: This I can ſay, that no Beggar I ever beheld, demanded more Pity than theſe Patients. To ſupport this Part of my Letter, I'll recite one Inſtance to which I was an Eye-witneſs. A poor Man, having fractur'd his Leg in a terrible Manner, was immediately brought to the *Hotel-Dieu*; while the Surgeon (with great Force) was making the Extenſion, the Patient (as is natural) cried out; on which, the Surgeon ſuddenly flung down the Leg, and beat the poor Man in as enrag'd a Manner as if

he

he had greatly injur'd him. What a ſhocking Sight was this !----*Miſerabile dictu !*

The Surgeons are, in general, very ungenteel to Students that are recommended to them: When any one delivers a recommendatory Letter, or pays them any Compliment, they coolly anſwer, but ſeldom (I believe never) think any more of it; nor ever ſeem to know the Perſon after; therefore I really think, all Letters of Recommendation are rather prejudicial than otherwiſe. The *French* are far from being complaiſant and civil to *Engliſhmen*; it is eſteem'd a great Act among them to impoſe upon Strangers, which they do very liberally. I could go on much farther with common Cuſtoms; but as this is quite foreign to my Intentions, and would greatly ſurpaſs the intended Brevity of this Letter, I muſt deſiſt, and con-

fine

fine myſelf to the Obſervations and Practice I propos'd.

All Ulcers, in theſe Hoſpitals, ſeem to have the ſame Treatment; but before I ſpeak of them, I'll juſt mention the Medicines they principally (I might ſay, always) uſe.

In the Middle of each principal Ward, are three Charcoal Fires, over which, are a great Pan of Cataplaſm; a Pan of black Digeſtive *; and a Veſſel with ſome *French* Brandy and Oil of Turpentine: Theſe are their topical and univerſal Applications. They don't ſeem to take any Notice of the different kind of Ulcers, whether Caries or putrid, old or recent, deep or ſuperficial. For they treat all alike (*i. e.*) dreſs them with black Digeſtive ſpread upon Sharpee †,

* The Baſilicon of the Shops.

† A kind of Lint, being the croſs Threads of coarſe Cloth, ſeparated for that Purpoſe.

and

and afterwards (be the Part ever ſo inflam'd) apply their Poultice almoſt boiling hot over the Whole; or otherwiſe, by way of Repellent, Defenſative and Retentive, they cover the Part with a Piece of Adheſive Plaiſter, which is generally firſt dipt in hot Spirits. This, undoubtedly, muſt be very painful to the Patients; but their Caſe is but little conſider'd, for the *French* Practitioners in general, handle Wounds very roughly. The Virtues of the *Ceratum de Lap. Calamin.* are here unknown, at leaſt never relied on. They wipe all Wounds with coarſe Cloth; I have obſerv'd them very carefully wiping ſome, where the Diſcharge was very good, and at the ſame Time dreſs others, that have diſcharg'd a putrid, ichorous, yellow, or fœtid Matter, in all their Naſtineſs, without any Wiping at all. This they urge was to prevent the

the Air having a bad Effect; which they imagine has a detrimental Influence on Sores in general. Yet, were they not too knowing to learn, the Obſervations a learned Author * has publiſh'd on that Topic, might ſufficiently convince them, their Opinion in this Point was erroneous. But theſe Gentlemen have ſo high an Opinion of their own Judgment, that tho' Improvements in Surgery are daily produc'd by other Nations, particularly in *England*; tho' theſe Improvements are founded, not on Reaſon only, but Experience, and warranted by the moſt accurate Obſervations, and recommended from a long Series of Succeſs, they are endow'd with a Sort of Self-ſufficiency, which renders them (thro' Pride) incapable of Inſtruction. I'll illuſtrate their Obſtinacy in one Circumſtance, *viz.*

* *Vide* Sharp's *Surgery.*

Cutting

Cutting for the Stone; they reject Mr. CHESELDEN's Improvement, to avoid wounding the Branch which runs from the Hypogaſtrick Artery, imagining terrible Conſequences would thence enſue: But, I believe, the Fear of an Hæmorrhage is not ſo much their Objection to his Method, as their Obſtinacy in not following the Improvement of another Nation, eſpecially the *Engliſh*, whom they cordially hate. They muſt be ſenſible, that carrying the Inſtrument thro' the Ligamentous Parts of the *Urethra* (which they always do in their Method of Operating) muſt, by contuſing and lacerating the Parts, be of worſe Conſequence, than could enſue on wounding the Artery abovementioned; which (in Children) rarely happens, and, when divided, is with great Eaſe remedied by an expeditious Uſe of the Curve Needle; in-

deed, it would be more difficult for a *French*, than an *Engliſh* Surgeon, as they are not ſo converſant in its Uſe: And their Needle's being but little curv'd, renders their Uſe difficult in any Part, particularly in this, where ſo much confin'd for Room; their Opening being ſeldom more than an Inch and Quarter in Adults, and in Children never above one Inch.

The *French*, tho' they ſometimes allow an *Engliſh* Surgeon to have great Judgment in Caſes and Operations, will not allow he can dreſs Wounds well, for Want of good Lint. On what Grounds they exclaim againſt ours, I cannot judge; but, in theſe Hoſpitals, I never ſaw a Piece of good Lint, during my Stay. What they uſe is the Threads of coarſe Cloth, which to the Touch is very hard, and, if applied dry, muſt be painful; but this

this they ſeldom do, as they have a ſort of Averſion to dry Applications. For common Uſe, they make of this Sharpee a kind of Pledgit, in which, with theſe coarſe Threads (let the Surgeon be ever ſo dextrous) there will be a very hard Knot in or near the Middle. This muſt, doubtleſs, be very uneaſy to a tender Wound; I think the fine Tow, uſed commonly in *England* (ſuppoſing they had no Lint) would be much preferable to their Sharpee, in Reſpect to the Patient's Eaſe (which certainly ought to be conſulted) and as it would abſorp more Matter. If this, then, be on an Equality with their's, how much preferable is our Lint! being much ſofter, neater, and (conſequently) much eaſier to the Patient. Theſe ſuperior Advantages, I think, make it evident, that the *Engliſh* Lint is as much proferable

to the *French*, as fine Tow to hempen Herds. To make a *Frenchman* believe this, is like waſhing a Blackmoor white; having been ſo long prejudic'd in Opinion, they would think it a Crime in one another to allow any good Qualities to Surgeons of another Nation. Thus, tho' the *Engliſh* continue to make Improvements in every Reſpect, ſuperior to the *French*, they will not eaſily obtain an equal Share of Merit or Reputation; but of this let every Perſon judge.

I can't be particular on any kind of Ulcer, as they treat all alike; therefore more would be tedious; and I ſhall proceed to ſhew their Method of opening Abſceſſes, and Manner of dreſſing them; with their Manner of treating recent Cuts, and Wounds of the Head, *&c.* I ſhall annex a Caſe of each, as they occur'd

occur'd to me while attending theſe Hoſpitals.

All Abſceſſes after Fevers, which are doubtleſs, the critical Diſcharge of the malignant Humours, are open'd by Inciſion; the Wound is immediately cramm'd full of coarſe Cloth, or Sharpee, generally the former; if any Veſſels bleed pretty freely, they ſtop them with Doſſils dipt in Spirits of Turpentine, or ſome Styptic Powder; rarely apply the Needle. They remove their Dreſſings the ſecond Day, which generally occaſions acute Pain, and a freſh Hæmorrhage. As they have no Notion of wetting their Dreſſings with warm Water, in order to bring them off eaſy, I think the coarſe Cloth preferable to Sharpee, as it may be remov'd at once, and with more Eaſe to the Patient. In a large Abſceſs, tho' the Skin is much diſcolour'd, they never cut

any

any of it away; the Dreſſings are (as in Ulcers) a Continuation of the black Digeſtive; and be the Diſcharge little or much, the Abſceſs great or ſmall, the Patient is dreſs'd twice a Day; which, as they are ſo terribly frighted at the Air's coming to a Wound, ſeems to me a Paradox.

Scrophulous Tumors they open by Cauſtic, leaving the Eſchars for Nature to ſuppurate, and never aſſiſt with the Knife.

Venereal Tumors, the Pox, and Claps, they cure by Salivation, making the Mercurial Courſe, weaker or ſtronger, according as the Stage of the Diſtemper indicates. They never open Buboes, but leave the Matter to be abſorp'd and evacuated, by the Salivation. But how contrary this Practice is to Nature, we may be convinc'd by Experience, and the Opinion of the memorable

SYDEN-

SYDENHAM, who ſuppoſes all Tumors that tend to Suppuration immediately after a Fever, or ariſe from any Malignity receiv'd into the Blood, are the Criſis of the Diſtemper; and their Diſcharge, in general a Radical Cure. That Buboes diſcharge a Portion of, if not the whole Virus of the Infection, is to me evident, from an Experiment I try'd on a Dog; in whoſe Neck I made a ſmall Inciſion, and convey'd into the Wound, ſome Drops of a freſh Diſcharge from a Buboe: I obſerv'd him carefully, and the eighth Day, his *Penis* was ſwell'd, and a little of it hung below the Prepuce, which look'd very red; he *whin'd* all Day, and was ever licking his Yard; from theſe Symptoms, I concluded he was infected, I knock'd him on the Head next Day, leſt he ſhould do Miſchief to his Species, and thinking the Expe-

riment

riment ſomewhat cruel. Now, as there is a Quantity, more, or leſs, of the Venereal Poiſon in the Diſcharge of a Buboe, how bad muſt be the Practice which endeavours to diſperſe them! (particularly when the Matter is already form'd) as the abſorp'd Virus muſt certainly vitiate the whole Maſs of Blood and Juices again, which might probably be wholly diſcharg'd by the Abſceſs; and the Patient in Conſequence of ſuch Diſcharge, with little Trouble and few Medecines, become perfectly healthful. On the contrary (by the *French* Practice) his Cure is ſevere, *viz.* a Salivation of a Month, or probably, (nay generally) longer; and Inſtances are not unfrequent, where this Virus is ſo great, as to reſiſt repeated Salivations.

Wounds lacerated, or made by a ſharp Inſtrument, are dreſs'd alike, with hot Oil of Turpentine: Theſe they

they likewiſe open on the ſecond Day from the Accident, after the two or three firſt Dreſſings, they have Recourſe to their common Digeſtive with which they finiſh the Cure; they ſubdue Funguſes of all Kinds, with the *Cauſtic. Lunar.*

They little regard Wounds of the Head, but treat them with equal Indifference, cramming them, if ſinous, very full of Sharpee dipt as uſual in hot Oil of Turpentine, in order to keep them open, and to prevent an Eroſion of the *Pericranium*; the Conſequence of this Treatment is very bad; but of this more hereafter.

In the Uſe of Sutures, their Practice is nearly the ſame as in *England*: They lay down pretty ſimilar Rules. Mr. *Moreau*, PREMIER SURGEON of the HOTEL-DIEU, and a Man of the moſt Eminence in *Paris*, aſſerts, There is never Occaſion to uſe the

Suture for divided Tendons, as they unite again, equally well, with any other fleshy Substance, only requiring more Time. He has lately had two Cases, where the *Tendo-Achilles* has been divided, and both have done well without the Suture. Only proper Bandages and Rest, is absolutely necessary in this Accident: He keeps all his Patients in Bed, nine or ten Weeks.

Fistula's *in Perinæo* they cure with the *Bougie*, and almost every Surgeon here, has a Secret of this Kind; they don't leave the Cure intirely to the Candle, but apply a warm Cataplasm to the Tumor once or twice a Day; and if the *Perinæum* is ulcerated, they destroy the Callosities with the Caustic. These Cures are generally ten Weeks in pefecting.

Mr. *Daran*, has Orders to try his *Bougie* in the Hospital of Invalids; where

where if it ſucceeds, 'tis imagin'd the *King* will purchaſe the Secret, this is look'd upon, as a ſurpriſing Improvement in Surgery, yet I am inclin'd to think, it is crept into too general Uſe.

All Strictures of the *Urethra* and *Sphincter Veſica*, are primarily occaſion'd by Inflammation; nor is this Inflammation always the Effect of Claps (as imagin'd) but is ſometimes conſtitutional, as I have ſeen. I remember a Caſe, where the Canal of the *Urethra*, was ſo much obſtructed and clos'd, from the Head of the *Penis* to the Bladder, that the ſmalleſt Sound could not be introduc'd; and the Patient was never clap'd. The third Day after the Suppreſſion of Urine, the Operation of the *Paracenteſis* was perform'd, which gave him immediate Relief; the Urine look'd very black, and ſmelt extremely fœtid;

he liv'd ten Days after the Operation. The *Urethra* was open'd after his Death, which appear'd quite ſound, except in a few Places, the *Lacuna* look'd very red. The internal Coat of the Bladder was eaſily ſeparated from the other; look'd black, and ſmelt ſtrong. The Surgeon concern'd for this Patient, (tho' a Man of great Skill and Experience) had ſo much Faith in the *Bougie*, that he neither order'd the Patient to be let Blood, nor us'd any Sort of Evacuations. The Application of the *Bougie* therefore, is more difficult than is commonly imagin'd. For to know, when the Strictures are occaſion'd by Venereal Taints, or are the Effects of Inflammation from other Cauſes, requires ſomething ſuperior to a common Judgment. I've obſerv'd, that thoſe Strictures which do not ariſe from Venereal Cauſes, are always univer-

univerſal; whereas, thoſe that ariſe from Venereal Taints, are only in particular Parts of the *Urethra*, and are generally found, immediately at the Nut and about the Middle of the *Penis*, and at the Neck of the Bladder: In the firſt of theſe Diſorders, large Evacuations by Bleeding and Purging, are as ſucceſsful, as the *Bougie* in the latter; but whoever thinks to cure the former by *Bougies* will certainly miſcarry, as it is conſtitutional: And whoever attempts to cure the latter by Evacuations only, will likewiſe fail, becauſe the Diſorder is local. Therefore young Surgeons, ſhould carefully examine into the primary Cauſe of thoſe Diſorders which affect the *Urethra*, and not depend too much on the *Bougie*, tho' it is on all Hands agreed, to be a Specifick for every Malady that obſtructs Urine.

To

To ſupport what I have advanc'd on their general Treatment of Wounds, &c. I ſhall produce three Caſes. The firſt is of a Man who had a large Abſceſs, form'd on the Outſide of the right Thigh after a Fever: He was brought to *Le Charitée*; where by the Aſſiſtance of Poultices, in four Days, it was quite compleat and very large; the Skin about four Fingers Breadth below the great *Trochanter* (the moſt prominent Part) was much diſcolour'd, and ſeem'd very thin: It was opened the ſeventh Day, by mere Puncture, a large Quantity of good *Pus* preſs'd out, and then, as much Sharpee as the Orifice would admit, thruſt into it, he reſted well the firſt Night, but the next Day was in violent Pain; was dreſt the ſecond Day, according to Cuſtom with a Roll of Sharpee about the Thickneſs of one's Thumb, the End of which was dipt

in

in black Digeſtive, and cramm'd into the Abſceſs about ſix Inches in Length, and renew'd twice a Day. The Patient remain'd in continual Pain, which I attribute to the Dreſſings and Confinement of the Matter. This Method was continued to the eleventh Day, nothing worth Notice occurring: On the thirteenth, he thought himſelf better, and did not complain of any Pain while dreſſing; from this to the nineteenth, he eat pretty liberally, the Abſceſs diſcharging in greater Quantity than the preceding Days: The 20th, he was attack'd with a Fever and Diarrhœa, which kill'd him in ſix Days after its Seizure.

I ſaw this Man open'd, and the Thigh diſſected; the Matter had inſinuated itſelf, betwixt almoſt every Muſcle, ſome of which was probably taken up into the Courſe of Circulation, and thus occaſion'd

his

his Death. He was ſeemingly, of a good Habit of Body, and not much emaciated by the Fever which preceded this Abſceſs; had he ſurviv'd the Diarrhœa, I am pretty certain, there would have remain'd a very troubleſome (if not incurable) Fiſtula, as the Dreſſings had form'd a fiſtulous Canal, which was evident to the Sight; and to the Touch like Horn: The Joint was not at all diſeas'd, and this convinces me, that if the Opening had been ſix or eight Inches long, inſtead of one, and the diſcolour'd Skin taken off at the ſame Time, the Wound afterwards daily fomented and dreſt with a ſoft Digeſtive, he very probably would have recover'd, as I have ſeen many in *England*, to all Appearance much worſe, ſoon do well. The good Effects of large Openings in Abſceſſes (particularly of the Thigh) I have frequently ſeen in the Hoſpitals of

London,

London, and *(vice versâ)* the fatal Effects, of ſmall, occur as frequent, in thoſe of *France*.

Case *the Second.*

A poor Man, that receiv'd a large Cut on the Outſide of his right Arm, in Length about five Inches, from a little below the Elbow, almoſt to the Wriſt, was dreſt up with hot Oil of Turpentine, *&c.* the third Day he complain'd of great Pain within-ſide of the Arm and Hand; he was ſtill dreſt in the common Way. On the fourth Day, the Inflammation was extremely great, as likewiſe the Pain; Oil of Turpentine, *&c.* (*ut ante*) with the Addition of a Poultice: The fifth, he thought himſelf ſomewhat better, the Warmth of the Poultice having procur'd him Reſt; from this to the ninth Day, he was in extreme Pain, very feveriſh and dry; from thence

to the 15th, much eaſier. There was now, a Collection of Matter from the Bend of the Arm to the Palm, which the next Day was opened by an Inciſion about three Inches in Length; and this dreſt in the ſame Manner as before, from the 16th to the 20th; the Diſcharge was very great, yet there remain'd a large Quantity of Matter in the Hand which was likewiſe open'd the 21ſt, a great Diſcharge following the Knife: By paſſing a Probe thro' this Inciſion, there appear'd a Communication with the former, to preſerve which, there was drawn under the Carpal Ligament, a Strip of Cloth about an Inch wide, and near a Foot long. This was brought out again at the firſt Opening, and was drawn backwards and forwards, in the Manner of a Seaton, every Dreſſing; one Day wetted with Spirits of Wine, and the other with Oil

of

of Turpentine; and now and then, with warm Balſam: The two Openings, were dreſt with hot Oil of Turpentine and Sharpee Tents cramm'd in as tight as the Patient could bear. This continued to the 30th Day, during which, nothing remarkable happen'd. The 32d, he had no Sleep, and complain'd of greater Pain; next Day, the Diſcharge was increas'd and very ſtinking, the *Vagina's* of moſt (and ſome) of the Tendons themſelves ſlough'd off; in four Days after, he was taken with cold Sweats, and died.

It is very uncommon for recent Wounds, where there is no Laceration or Contuſion, which are committed immediately, to the Care of a good Surgeon, to produce ſuch terrible Events: But as the ſlighteſt Accidents, occaſion the moſt violent Diſorders, under the Direction of the beſt, while at another Time,

the worſt Symptoms ſurmount the vileſt Treatment; (which is very conſpicuous in Wounds that are continually dreſt with hard Tents) it is here neceſſary, to run over a ſhort Rationale, on the Occaſion of theſe Maladies, which ariſe frequently from ill Habit of Body. and as frequently from improper Treatment. As this Conſtitution ſeem'd pure, I am afraid the whole Train of Miſchiefs which happen'd, were occaſion'd by the latter.

All Wounds are ſubject to Inflammation, according to their Size and the Diſpoſition they happen to; this diſſipates ſooner or later, according to the Treatment of the Surgeon, and the good or bad Habit of Body.

The State of every Inflammation in recent Wounds, may be known by the Colour, Quantity, and Conſiſtence of the Matter diſcharg'd from it; and in every Caſe where

the

the Diſcharge is not good, there is a Degree of Inflammation, which may be known by its Aſpect; and during the Time of a thin, ſerous Diſcharge, which all Wounds are ſubject to, there is certainly a great deal, which ſubſides, as the Matter gets more pure; and as this Matter alters its Colour pretty gradually, ſo gradually, goes off the attending Inflammation, at which Time, the Wound granulates, and looks well.

It is certain that every Cut, nay even the ſlighteſt Scratch has its Stage of Inflammation, before it can heal; therefore, Nature certainly muſt be the only Guide to adapt the juſt Height or Degree of this Stage, and any Medicines or Applications, that ſhould increaſe this Inflammation beyond the Point Nature determin'd it, muſt certainly fruſtrate her Intentions, and conſequently, occaſion many pernicious, and perhaps

haps fatal Conſequences. Thus likewiſe, where there is good Matter already form'd, and there is little or no Inflammation, the renewing that troubleſome Symptom, by any improper Application, or plugging up the Matter with hard Tents, and thus checking the free Diſcharge which Nature had excited, muſt be equally prejudicial. Both theſe Conſequences, happen'd in this Caſe; the firſt, with ſtuffing a recent Wound, time after time with hot Oil of Turpentine and Sharpee Tents, which 'tis evident, occaſioned the exceſſive Pain, Inflammation and Abſceſſes within the Arm and Hand: And *Secondly*, when theſe were opened by drawing a Piece of Cloth under the Carpal Ligament, among the Flexor Tendons to preſerve a Communication between the Openings; theſe were the ſole Cauſe of many more Inflammations

and

and Suppurations; for no ſooner one ſubſided, than others aroſe. From this Seaton being daily drawn backwards and forwards, (which conſequently gave the Patient great Pain) the Carpal Ligament at his Death, was juſt worn thro', the Tendons almoſt all ſlough'd away, and the *Radius* and *Ulna* were both foul near their Extremities.

Now in theſe Caſes, the moſt ſimple Applications, which will leaſt interpoſe with Nature's Efforts, muſt certainly be beſt: Among theſe perhaps, none ſo efficacious, as a ſoft Digeſtive on Lint, or perhaps dry Lint, ſoft and well ſcrap'd; and an external Plaiſter, of *Cerat. de Lap. Calam.* a Cerate of Wax, Oil and Sperma Ceti; or if more adviſeable, a Cataplaſm of white Bread and Milk, made ſoft with a proper Oil. This Treatment, would not only be more judicious and eaſy to the

Patient,

Patient, but probably be attended with more Succeſs, than that above quoted.

When a Wound that is lacerated and contus'd, occaſions of itſelf a greater Degree of Inflammation than the Surgeon may judge neceſſary to promote Suppuration, how prefe-rable in ſuch Circumſtances would it be to uſe Evacuations, by Bleed-ing, Purges or Clyſters, and other Antiphlogiſtick Medicines, than thus by purſuing the common Track, pervert Nature, in uſing hot Oil of Turpentine, &c. which are as far from producing the Effect propos'd, as a hot Iron would be, if apply'd to any Sore, to produce a Cicatrix.

To promote Suppuration, to pre-vent Mortifications, Putrefactions, &c. they have been long in great Eſteem, but I am of Opinion, that a too liberal Uſe of them, eſpecially in ſlight Caſes, frequently produces

the

the very Effects they are intended to prevent; as by their Cauſtic Heat, they muſt often increaſe an Inflammation to a greater Height than Nature would otherwiſe carry it. This Conjecture allow'd, 'tis as probable they may terminate in Mortifications, and thence in Death, as in more favourable Events.

I remember, a compound Fracture in the Country, where ſeveral Surgeons were concern'd, which was dreſt with hot Oil of Turpentine pretty liberally, *i. e.* it was pour'd into the Wound; the Conſequence of this, was immediate, exceſſive Pain to the Patient, an Inflammation, Mortification, and in a few Hours Death. The Fracture had no threatening Appearance before this Dreſſing, which was applied the fourth Day after the Accident.

Rectify'd Spirits of Wine, I think, muſt be nearly as prejudicial as the

Oil of Turpentine, for the ſame Reaſons: And if the many Vulnerary Tinctures in Uſe amongſt Surgeons in general, but particularly in *France*; were reduc'd, or utterly exploded, the Practice of Surgery, would I believe, by no Means miſs their Specifick Qualities.

Case *the Third.*

A poor Fellow having a large Cut on the upper Side of the left *Bregma*, about an Inch and an half in Length, was brought to the Hotel-Dieu; and thus dreſt; on one Side was a ſmall Artery which bled freely; to this they applied ſome Styptic Powder, and thruſt the other Part of the Wound, according to Cuſtom, full of Sharpee dipt in Oil of Turpentine, and cover'd it afterwards, with ſeveral Bolſters of Cloth dipt in hot Brandy. The third Day, he complain'd of great Pain

Pain about the Wound, but had no Vomitings, nor Symptoms of a Fracture: His Wound was open'd, and dreſt as at firſt, the fourth Day, the Edges were greatly inflam'd, yet the ſame Dreſſings were continued. By the eighth Day, the Edges look-ed blue and flabby, and ſuppurated a large Quantity of Matter, which was yellow and very fœtid, &c. and not having Room to diſcharge, be-gan to inſinuate itſelf between the Scalp and the *Pericranium*; and by the 13th Day, they were ſeparated for the Space of (at leaſt) two Inches in Diameter: Notwithſtanding theſe Circumſtances, the Method of dreſ-ſing was continued as at firſt to the 16th Day; the *Cranium* began now, to look black in two or three Places, the Edges of the Scalp tuck'd in and look'd very badly, the Diſ-charge ſtinking; on the next Day, there were four Quadrangular Inci-

ſions made, two Inches or more in Length, and the Angles in part cut off: The Dreſſings now were Sharpee dipt in Spirits of Wine, it was again dreſt on the 19th Day, and look'd much better; to the 22d the ſame Dreſſings. And nothing remarkable interfering, the Cure was perform'd by the 40th Day.

The Treatment of this Caſe, tho' crown'd with Succeſs, I think was ſhocking; but as that may be learnt from what has been already ſaid on their Practice in the preceding Caſes, it would be only tedious and diſagreeable to dwell upon it; every Perſon's Judgment will convince him, how preferable in theſe Caſes, ſuperficial Dreſſings and proper Bandages would have been, to the Methods us'd. Suppoſing the Scalp ſeparated by a Collection of grumous Blood or Matter, and it was judg'd neceſſary to remove it, it would

would certainly be much eaſier to the Patient, and much more convenient for the Surgeon, to take an Oval Piece off at once, than to make Quadrangular Inciſions, and afterwards cut off their Angles, as theſe kind of Inciſions, moſt commonly require the Operation to be repeated, for the Matter lodging continually under them, ſeparates the Scalp from time to time, and occaſions many (avoidable) Impoſthumations; whereas, if the Opening was perform'd in the Manner before hinted, the Wound would, as Experience ſhews us, digeſt and heal kindly.

Their Uſe of Styptic Powders, Oil of Turpentine, &c. to ſtop Hæmorrhages, I cannot but think an abſurd Practice, as in the firſt Place they are not ſecure, the Veſſels being continually liable to bleed afreſh, when once the Eſchar they occaſion

occaſion ſeparates, and then they generally give great Pain. Now the Suture gives but little Pain, and is always ſecure.

After what has been ſaid of the *French* Practice in general, I ſhould be too partial not to recount an Inſtance wherein their Practice is more judicious (or at leaſt more ſucceſsful) than ours. And notwithſtanding they treat all Caſes as nearly as I could obſerve in the above Method, they have often the Credit of performing great Cures.

They excel us in the Application of Bandages, and their repeated Bleedings in Diſlocations and Fractures, makes their Succeſs in ſuch Caſes, greater than ours. They bleed theſe Patients, every ſix Hours, while the Symptomatick Fever remains; and it is almoſt ſurpriſing, the Loſs of Blood a Patient under theſe Circumſtances will bear; I remember

member a Man with a violent compound Fracture, who was bled eleven times in ſix Days, by which Means, notwithſtanding the many threatening Symptoms, he recover'd in about ten Weeks. Their Treatment of theſe Caſes, except the plentiful Bleedings, Clyſters and other gentle Evacuations, is in general like the *Engliſh*, therefore to deſcend more into Particulars, would be only tedious. The Learned Mr. *Cheſelden*, amongſt his numerous Improvements has not forgot to tell us, the great Succeſs he has had in Inflammations of the *Urethra* and Bladder, *&c.* by the liberal Uſe of Bleedings, Purges, *&c.* for which, ſee his *Anatomy*, (p. 262.) I think this Practice would be worth trying in every Caſe of Surgery accompanied with great Inflammation, or Contuſion, I mean, it might be repeated

peated with the ſame earneſtneſs that Great Man adviſes.

MIDWIFRY has not been ſhort of bringing Students here for a Number of Years, and certainly, this was a fine School, when Students had the Liberty to viſit the Lying-in Women, and attend the Labours of the *Hotel-Dieu*: I believe, it then, was preferable to any Place in *Europe*, but this great Priviledge has been forfeited a Number of Years; as beforemention'd. *Lè Motte* tells us in his Preface, That he was oblig'd to content himſelf with waiting on the Phyſicians into this Ward, and writing down their Preſcriptions, yet we have had ſince his Time, a great Number of People educated here, who have boaſted the great Advantages they had when Students, in ſeeing the real Deliveries of this Hoſpital, and attending

the

the Patients after. Mr. *Bracken* has been particularly careful in his *Midwifry*, to enlarge on theſe Opportunities: But he certainly forgot himſelf, or otherwiſe had never read *Le Motte*: 'Tis a Pity that a vain Oſtentation, ſhould induce a Man of his Probity, to paſs ſuch a groſs Impoſition on the World.

Midwifry is taught here by ſeveral, but the Perſon of moſt Repute, is *Monſ. Gregoir*; whoſe *Machine*, has made much Noiſe all over *Europe*; therefore it may not be amiſs, to give a ſhort Sketch of its Fabric. It is compos'd of Baſket-work, cover'd with coarſe Cloth; the *Pelvis* is human, cover'd with Oil-ſkin: It has neither *Uterus Externum* nor *Internum*, nor any of the Contents of the *Abdomen*, the Want of which he ſubſtitutes with his Hands; in ſhort, 'tis ſo rude a Work, that a common *Pelvis* ſtuck into a *Whale*, without any Embelliſhment, would

be as like Nature, as this *Machine*, which has been ſo much admir'd: It has not any Appearance of Ingenuity, or Reſemblance of Nature; yet this *Machine* rude as it is, would probably have ſtill kept its Reputation, had it not been for the ſurpriſing Genius of Dr. *Smellie*, whoſe *Machines* are really curious; they are compos'd of real *human Bones*, arm'd with fine ſmooth Leather, and ſtuff'd with an agreeable ſoft Subſtance: All the Parts ſeem very natural, both to Look and Touch; the Contents of the *Abdomen* are beautifully contriv'd, the Inteſtines look very natural, as likewiſe the Kidneys, and large Veſſels. The *Uterus*, *Externum* and *Internum*, are made to contract, and dilate, according to the Difficulty intended for the Delivery. The *Children* for theſe *Machines*, are likewiſe, excellently contriv'd, they having all the Motions of the Joints. Their *Crani-*

ums

ums are ſo form'd, as to give way to any Force exerted, and are ſo Elaſtick, that the Preſſure is no ſooner taken off, than they return to their natural Equalities. Too great a Force exerted in delivering with theſe ſuppos'd, has the ſame Effect it would have on real Children; for as in real Nature, it would either break or diſlocate ſome Part, ſo a too great Force us'd on theſe *Machines*, would intirely ſpoil their Elaſticity: Thus, when a Perſon has Judgment enough to work well on theſe *Machines*, he would ſoon be a good *Accoucheur*: Whereas, one might work to Eternity, on *Gregoir*'s Baſket, and never know any thing of the Matter; for let a Part, however difficult preſent itſelf, in his *Machine*, you deliver it as eaſily, as you would turn a Cork in a Pail of Water: So that whenever a Pupil who has been (only) educated under him, meets with dif-

ficult Deliveries, he will be frighten'd at every little Reſiſtance he meets with, in turning Children.

The Advantage Mr. *Gregoir* is ſaid to have over Dr. *Smellie*, is that of having real Children, this at firſt appear'd to me a great Advantage, but I find it is not ſo; for the Coldneſs of the Child, the Flabbineſs of the Parts, and the Skin's Coming off at the leaſt Touch, makes the Delivery ſeem much leſs natural, than that of the Leather Children. Now the *Uterus* and other Parts of Dr. *Smellie*'s *Machine*, when a little warm by Uſe, ſeem as like Nature as poſſible.

The Expence of two Courſes with Dr. *Smellie* is five Guineas, for which you attend four Labours, and deliver the laſt; which Labours make an additional Expence of about one Guinea. If you attend Labours with Mr. *Gregoir*, the Expence is eight Livres to ſee him deliver

liver a Natural Caſe, eighteen to ſee him turn and deliver by the Feet, one Guinea if he delivers by Inſtruments, and if a Pupil delivers any unnatural Caſe, he pays two Guineas: And the ſame, for a Courſe of Lectures, which is divided into two Parts, *viz.* of Theory and Practice, which together take up at leaſt three Months: The Theoretical Lectures are but indifferent, but his Practical ones, pretty good, as he relates many Caſes, and makes judicious and good Obſervations. Yet on the whole, I think *London* a much better Place, to ſtudy MIDWIFRY, ANATOMY, and SURGERY, than *Paris*, both in reſpect to Expence, and Improvement.

It were to be wiſh'd indeed, that every young Surgeon, would make the beſt Uſe of thoſe Opportunities for Improvement, their Native Country affords them; it is not to be doubted, but many Geniuſes might

then ariſe, to the great Advancement of Surgery, and the Honour of *England*: But while the attending an Hoſpital, is made ſubſervient (as I believe is too often the Caſe) to Extravagance and Pleaſure, it is not to be wonder'd at, that Students in this Univerſity *, ſhould make as ſmall Progreſs, as ſome in the once famous Seminaries of *Oxford* and *Cambridge*. But from an Inſenſibility of their own Intereſts, many young Surgeons return to the Countries, more poliſh'd, but leſs improv'd, than if they had remain'd in their former Situations. To People of this Caſt, nobody I believe, will be abſurd enough to imagine, this ſo faſhionable Tour, can be any

* I hope the Propriety of this Term will not be diſputed as I think the extenſive Good (in regard to inſtructing Youth) of our Hoſpitals conſider'd, it cannot be deny'd, they ought to be eſteem'd as ſuch. And

The Similitude will appear more *natural*, to thoſe who know how SCHOOL-BOY-LIKE the Majority of *Apprentices* and *Pupils* behave.

real

real Advantage, as every gaudy Novelty attracts the Eye, and every ſtrange Place the Attention, of a Perſon alienated from the Purſuit of Buſineſs; and to a Perſon devoted to Study and the Improvement of his Capacity, I think it will appear ſufficiently perſpicuous, to be of little Service.

The *French* Pupils being leſs pamper'd than the *Engliſh*, and more ſtrictly confin'd to their Studies, conſequently reap more Advantage from an Attendance in an Hoſpital: But this is no Argument that their Opportunities for Improvement are greater than ours, indeed, rather expoſes our own Weakneſs, who cannot imagine ourſelves accompliſh'd in the Profeſſion, without a Tour to PARIS, if for ſix Weeks only, in which time, it will appear (from what is ſaid above) impoſſible to reap any Advantage at all. It is a long approv'd Maxim, equally true and wiſe, that Travel oftener makes the finiſh'd

Coxcomb, than the compleat Gentleman: And as an *Engliſhman*, I would adviſe thoſe of my Countrymen, who deſign to make this Tour, not to be the Dupes of a Nation, who only ridicule us for apeing their *Follies*; and ſpending our Fortunes amongſt them, for the Satisfaction of proving ourſelves *Blockheads*. Let us rather embrace every Opportunity our native Country affords us, of excelling in our Profeſſions, and by obſerving and imitating thoſe Great Examples which are at the Head of our Hoſpitals, ſhew the *French*, that we need not copy any thing from them, but a Self-ſufficiency, and Love for our own Country. And then (as I ſaid before) it is not to be fear'd, but the next Age may produce Geniuſes like thoſe of the preſent; who (it may, without Vanity be ſaid) both in reſpect to Judgment in Caſes, and Dexterity in Operations, equal, if not excel, any that FRANCE ever produc'd.

FINIS